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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KUWAIT 001945

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STATE PLEASE REPEAT TO IO COLLECTIVE
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NSC FOR EABRAMS, SMCCORMICK, STAHIR-KHELI, JDWORKEN
USAID FOR USAID/A, DCHA/AA, DCHA/RMT, DCHA/FFP
USAID FOR DCHA/OTI, DCHA/DG, ANE/AA
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA:WGARVELINK, BMCCONNELL,
KFARNSWORTH USAID FOR ANE/AA:WCHAMBERLIN
ROME FOR FODAG
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH
DOHA FOR MSHIRLEY
ANKARA FOR AMB WRPEARSON, ECON AJSIROTIC AND DART
AMMAN FOR USAID AND DART

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID PREF IZ WFP

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: COALITION FORCES TO ASSIST WFP IN
ASSESSING THE PDS INFRASTRUCTURE

REF: Kuwait 01765

SUMMARY

11. The DART and WFP met with Coalition forces on 29 April. Coalition forces agreed to contact WFP national staff and work with them to determine the status of Ministry of Trade (MOT) buildings and records, condition of silos, mills and warehouses, water and electricity for these structures, IDPs, and market prices for central and southern Iraq.
End Summary.

LIST OF REQUESTS

12. Further to ref tel, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) Program Manager and DART met with Coalition forces on April 29. WFP laid out information requirements integral to the revival of the public distribution system (PDS) and requested that the commander of the Coalition forces in each governorate in central and southern Iraq (with the exception of Basrah, An Nasiriyah, and Maysan where WFP staff have already begun work) contact the WFP national staff and collect the needed information. WFP thus far has not been able to reach all its national staff. It is sending Thuraya phones to different governorates so that communications with national staff can improve. WFP also asked Coalition forces to relay to the Ministry of Trade (MOT) staff that WFP is anxious to begin working with them.

13. WFP requested assistance in collecting answers to the following questions:

-- Does MOT staff have access to its offices?

-- Does the Ration Center staff have access to its offices? (Note: In Arabic, the registration center is termed ration center. It is the place where the ration cards are issued and updated. End Note.)

-- What is the condition of the old records and computer at each ration center?

-- What is the condition of the silos, mills, and warehouses? WFP provided to Coalition forces a checklist of items to review for each structure and also asked that the Coalition focus on Baghdad, Mosul, and Basrah, per ref tel. The DART asked WFP to prioritize the silos and mills in these three cities as there are 39 in Baghdad, 16 in Mosul, and 9 in Basrah.

-- What are the current stocks in the warehouses and silos? WFP recommended to Coalition forces that it work with the MOT personnel in making this determination.

-- Does the warehouse have security, provided either by the Coalition or by MOT security guards?

-- Are there any MOT trucks in the warehouse? (Note: It has been discovered the MOT in Basrah served as the central dispatch point for transport for southern and central Iraq and operated a fleet

of 1,000 trucks. MOT trucks were painted yellow. WFP wants to determine how many of these trucks still exist. End Note.)

-- Are there tanks of fuel stored in the warehouse?

-- For how many weeks is the food in the household expected to last?

-- Are there any internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the governorate? Are they from within the governorate or from another governorate? What is the reason for the movement? Do they plan to return home soon?

-- According to hospital doctors, how many cases of malnourishment exist in the hospital. Are the rates rising or falling?

-- What is the status of the water and electricity?

-- What are the market prices for the following items: rice, wheat flour, oil, sugar, meat, diesel and cooking fuel?

-- What is the exchange rate?

14. According to WFP, its national staff and the MOT would handle questions regarding the food and flour agents. CARE also plans to assist with this, once an agreement is reached between WFP and CARE.

15. DART learned from Coalition forces on 3 May that guidance has been drafted to address these issues and would be issued on 5 May. Coalition forces are forming U.N. "focus teams" in each governorate who will work with WFP national staff to collect the information as they have the institutional knowledge.

JONES